

REMARKS

Claims 5-7 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for use of the term "rubber-like." This term has been replaced in Claims 5-7 with the term "elastomeric," which is found in paragraph [0025] of the published application. As the Examiner has pointed out on page 6 of the Office action, rubber is an elastomer. It is respectfully submitted that this amendment cures the indefiniteness of Claims 5-7. Claim 17 has been canceled.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by US Pat. 5,924,988 (Burris et al.) Claim 1 has been amended by amending the claim with the subject matter of Claims 2 and 9, which have been canceled. Claim 18 has been similarly amended by adding the subject matter of Claim 9 to the claim. Amended Claim 1 describes an ultrasonic diagnostic imaging system including a main body housing imaging electronics and a control panel coupled to the imaging electronics comprising an articulating display mount; and a flat panel display having a viewing screen and electrically coupled to the imaging electronics and coupled to the display mount, the flat panel display including a peripheral region which can be gripped by a user to reposition the flat panel display, the peripheral region including a first gripping surface on the front of the flat panel display forward of the plane of the viewing screen and a second gripping surface rearward of the plane of the viewing screen, wherein the first gripping surface is adapted to be engaged by the thumb when repositioning the flat panel display and the second gripping surface is adapted to be engaged by one or more fingers when repositioning the flat panel display, and wherein at least one of the gripping surfaces is locally contoured in the peripheral region to be engaged by a user. An embodiment of the ultrasound system of Claim 1 obviates the need for a handle or other gripping mechanism to manipulate the ultrasound system display such as the handle 100 shown in Figure 1 of the present application. Instead, the user can simply grasp the gripping surfaces around the periphery of the display with the thumb and fingers to reposition the display for convenient viewing. Since sonographers usually work with coupling gels which are slippery, one of the gripping surfaces is contoured to provide a more secure grip which will not readily slip as the display is being manipulated.

Burris et al. describe an ultrasound system with a flat panel display mounted on an ultrasound system by various articulating mechanisms which allow the display screen to be repositioned. Burris et al. do not describe their display screen as having gripping surfaces to manipulate the display, nor do they suggest gripping the display to maneuver it. Instead,

they tell the user to manipulate the articulating mechanism on which the display is mounted. For example, in col. 5, lines 63-64 they say:

"By swiveling the two arms 440, 450, an operator can position the flat panel display device 430...."

Similarly, in col. 6, lines 22-23 they say:

"By articulating this hinge 620, the operator can tilt and swivel the display device 630."

And again in col. 6, lines 26-28 they say:

"With these arms 740, 750, the operator can horizontally position the display device 730 outside the perimeter of the cart 710."

Similar descriptions are given at col. 6, lines 35-37; at col. 6, lines 46-48; at col. 6, lines 56-61; and at col. 6, line 63. Nowhere is a gripping surface shown or suggested by Burris et al. To the contrary, Burris et al. instruct the reader to adjust the articulating mechanism used to mount the display. Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that Burris et al. cannot anticipate Claim 1 or its dependent Claims 3-8 and 10-15.

Amended Claim 1 further calls for at least one of the front and back gripping surfaces to be locally contoured in the peripheral region for engagement by a user, which enhances the ability to grip the peripheral gripping surface. The Examiner refers to Fig. 4 of Burris et al., which appears to show the entire display to be slightly curved from top to bottom across the entire display. This curvature is not mentioned by Burris et al. and there is no way to discern its purpose, or whether it is just the way the draftsman executed the drawing. In any event, it is seen that this curvature extends across the entire flat panel display and not locally constrained to the peripheral region of the display. It is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1 is not anticipated by Burris et al. for this further reason.

For many of the dependent claims the Examiner states that one of the claimed features is "inherent" in Burris et al. This inherency rejection is made six times. But the Examiner has provided no showing of why these features should be inherent; the statement is simply made that they are. It is respectfully submitted that simply making the statement that something is inherent falls well short of proof that inherency has been established, particularly in the case of an anticipation rejection where the claimed invention must be found in its entirety within the four corners of the reference. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 5-8 and 10-13 are not anticipated by Burris et al. for this further reason.

Amended Claim 18 describes a method for repositioning a flat panel display screen of an ultrasonic diagnostic imaging system comprising grasping gripping surfaces on the front

and back of the flat panel display on the periphery of the display screen, the front gripping surface being adapted to be engaged by the thumb of a user and the back gripping surface being adapted to be engaged by the fingers of a user, at least one of the gripping surfaces being locally contoured for engagement by the user; and repositioning the flat panel display screen to a desired viewing position with one hand. Burris et al. does not show or suggest a peripheral gripping surface on the front and back of their flat panel displays, nor a gripping surface which is locally contoured for engagement by a user. As previously mentioned, all of the instructions of Burris et al. for adjusting the position of their flat panel display are instructions to adjust the articulating mounting mechanism for the display, and the curvature of the display in Fig. 4 of Burris et al. is not local but extends across the entire display. There is no way to determine whether the flat panel displays of Burris et al. can be adjusted with one hand or require two hands, as Burris et al. never suggest using any hands on the display to adjust position. Furthermore, Burris et al. does not show or suggest grasping gripping surfaces on the top or sides of their flat panel display to adjust vertical or horizontal positioning as described in dependent Claims 19 and 20. It is respectfully submitted that claims 18-20 cannot be anticipated by Burris et al. for all of these reasons.

The specification has been amended to update a reference to an application serial number with the number of the corresponding issued patent.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks it is respectfully submitted that Claims 5-7 are now clear and definite and that Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15 and 18-20 are not anticipated by Burris et al. Accordingly it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112 and of Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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